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## **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CAMPUS OF WVU-EAST OFFERS NUCLEAR MEDICINE, SPECT-CT**

RANSON, W.Va. – WVU Hospitals-East's Jefferson Memorial Hospital campus is now offering nuclear medicine services that feature an advanced medical imaging technology that combines single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and computed tomography (CT) to enable physicians to detect heart disease, cancer and other diseases earlier and target treatments with greater precision.

The Symbia<sup>®</sup> TruePoint<sup>™</sup> SPECT•CT system from Siemens Medical Solutions allows physicians to obtain more detailed information and increased image clarity in a single, non-invasive procedure than is possible through separate procedures. Patients previously have had to undergo separate exams producing individual SPECT and CT data sets. Patient movement and the time interval between the exams could produce conflicting results and did not enable the complementary benefits of the combined Symbia SPECT•CT technology to be realized.

"This advanced technology provides our physicians with more opportunities to utilize the powerful combination of functional and anatomical detail to improve diagnostic accuracy and ultimately advance patient care," commented Dan Sytsma, radiology manager at Jefferson Memorial Hospital.

"Nuclear Medicine specialists from the WVU Department of Radiology will be interpreting these scans, bringing new expertise to Jefferson Memorial Hospital. Our patients will benefit from earlier heart disease diagnosis and advanced tumor staging and localization," stated Konrad C. Nau, M.D., vice president medical affairs at Jefferson Memorial Hospital. "With the state-of-the-art images that SPECT-CT provides, patient outcomes are enhanced and unnecessary procedures are often avoided," he added.

Nuclear medicine is a subspecialty within the field of radiology that uses very small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose or treat disease and other abnormalities within the body. Physicians use nuclear imaging to visualize the structure and function of an organ, tissue, bone or system of the body.

For a SPECT exam, patients are injected with a radiopharmaceutical – a drug that contains a small dose of radiation to trace a disease’s path. A special gamma camera is used to create images of the area being examined and identify “hot spots” that indicate the location and extent of disease, such as the increased metabolic activity characteristic of cancer. The combination of high-resolution CT through the Symbia SPECT•CT allows physicians at Jefferson Memorial Hospital to accurately localize these hot spots and make definitive diagnoses.

“Nuclear medicine offers procedures that are helpful to a broad spectrum of medical specialties, from pediatrics to cardiology,” Nau said. “SPECT-CT is particularly helpful in diagnosing heart disease and will be a great tool as we work to develop a cardiology program at WVUH-East,” he added.

WVUH-East’s Jefferson Memorial Hospital has been providing comprehensive imaging services to the residents of the Eastern Panhandle for many years. Nuclear medicine was offered years ago as a mobile service. “The addition of a nuclear medicine service and SPECT-CT will ensure our health system’s ability to offer high-quality services and deliver cost-effective care to our patients,” Sytsma said.

For more information on imaging services at WVUH-East, phone the physician and services referral line at (304) 264-1DOC or (304) 724-DOCS.

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Photo Cutline: Jefferson Memorial Hospital Nuclear Medicine Technologist Nancy Morton is shown in the hospital’s new nuclear medicine suite demonstrating how a SPECT CT exam is performed.